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ABSTRACT

This report focuses on two of New York City's emerging Latino populations, Colombians and Dominicans. The purpose is to present baseline data on socioeconomic indicators, economic status and labor force participation, and immigration and naturalization characteristics. When the information is available, comparative data are presented for other Latino groups, non-Hispanic whites, and non-Hispanic blacks. Data are from the U.S. Census and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The overwhelming majority of Colombians and Dominicans in New York City were born abroad. Members of both groups between the ages of 3 and 25 have slightly lower rates of school enrollment than do whites and blacks, but their enrollment rates are comparable to those of other Latinos in the city. Dominicans in New York have lower levels of educational attainment than do other populations, and the educational attainment of Colombians is behind that of non-Latino whites. Data are presented in the following categories: (1) Sociodemographic Indicators of Households and Individuals; (2) Labor Force Participation and Economic Status; (3) Immigration and Naturalization Characteristics; (4) Northern New Jersey's Colombian and Dominican Populations; and (5) Conclusions and Recommendations. (Contains 70 tables and 18 references.) (SLD)

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Constructing the New York Area Hispanic Mosaic:

A Demographic Portrait of Colombians and Dominicans in New York

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Constructing the New York Area Hispanic Mosaic:
A Demographic Portrait of Colombians and Dominicans in New York

The dramatic expansion of the nation's Latino[1] population has generated a wave of social science research on this population. Many of these studies have focused on the three national origin groups that make up the majority of Latinos nationwide: Mexican Americans, Cuban Americans, and Puerto Ricans (García et al. 1989). Together these populations account for approximately 80 percent of the Latino population nationally (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1994).

These new studies have examined the degree to which Latinos should be viewed as a single ethnic group or, instead, as discrete national origin populations that make up the whole (Bean and Tienda 1990; de la Garza et al. 1992; Pachon and DeSipio 1994; Shorris 1992). These studies have analyzed various characteristics—demographics, immigration and settlement patterns, political values, attitudes and behaviors, and other characteristics and behaviors—and they all share a broader concern. They assess commonalities and differences of the national origin populations that are subsumed under the category Latino.

The ongoing research on these dominant Latino national origin groups has laid a foundation for the study of *all* Latinos. Study after study has demonstrated that while there is a commonality of experience among Latinos, there is a low level of ethnic solidarity among Latinos of different ancestries. The foundation of this absence of ethnic solidarity is a dearth of knowledge about the experiences of Latinos other than those of one's own national-origin group (de la Garza et al. 1992). For example, Latinos in Los Angeles, who are predominantly of Mexican ancestry, have little knowledge of or a belief in a common culture with Cuban Americans or Puerto Ricans.

The chasm among the Latino national origin groups corresponds to geographic differences. Traditionally, Latino national origin groups have concentrated in different regions of the country. While there have always been exceptions to this rule, particularly in Chicago, the majority of Mexican Americans reside in the Southwest, Cuban Americans in Florida, and Puerto Ricans in New York and the Northeast. Although these traditional patterns are still in place, immigration is breaking them down. New York and Los Angeles in particular have become home to diverse Latino populations that have built upon the base of Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans to develop pan-ethnic Latino communities. Thus, to the extent that a national Latino political identity is developing, the experiences of Latinos in these cities, where Latinos of diverse ancestries reside, are crucial to the development of that identity.

Emerging Latino Populations in New York and Los Angeles

Both New York and Los Angeles have two newly emerging Latino populations. In New York, Dominicans and Colombians[2] make up a sizable share of the Latino population. Los Angeles' Latino population is also quite diverse. While many Latin American and Caribbean nationalities have joined Mexican Americans in Southern California, the two largest of these emerging Latino populations trace their ancestry to El Salvador and Guatemala.

This report focuses on two of these emerging populations: Colombians and Dominicans in the New York City area. Our purpose is to present baseline data on sociodemographic indicators, economic status and labor force participation, and immigration and naturalization characteristics of these two populations. Where available, we present comparative data for three other populations in the New York City area: Latinos other than Colombians and Dominicans, non-Hispanic whites, and non-Hispanic blacks. We refer to these latter two populations as whites and blacks, though it is important to note that by removing Hispanics from the white and black

populations we are making a more precise comparison between Latinos and non-Latinos that is often absent in scholarly analysis.

The "Other Latino" category is also an amalgam of peoples. The largest group in this category is Puerto Ricans, but this category also includes all others in New York City who can trace their ancestry to the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. We offer their combined characteristics and experiences for comparative purposes, but do not mean to imply homogeneity among these Latinos. For a discussion of the New York Puerto Rican experience, see Jennings and Rivera (1984); Falcón (1992); and de la Garza et al. (1992).

Data Sources

We rely on two sets of data for this examination: the decennial census and data from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Even with their shortcomings, they are the only sources that offer a reliable portrait of these populations and allow for comparison to other populations. There are no social science surveys of these communities that offer an equally reliable picture. Even if there were, the census offers a very large number of respondents. In New York City, the census counted more than 90,000 Colombians and 330,000 Dominicans in addition to nearly 1.4 million Other Latinos, and over 2 million blacks and 4 million whites. Because of their breadth and depth, these census data provide our primary source. Unless otherwise noted, the following data are derived from the 1990 census.

The shortcomings of these data sources must be noted, especially regarding the census. It is subject to an undercount of between 4.3 and 7.9 percent for Latino populations. This undercount is not evenly distributed across the Latino populations and could be expected to have a disproportionate impact among populations like Colombians and Dominicans that have large numbers of immigrants and low rates of English-language speaking ability. Thus, the census data presented here are likely to overlook some poorer and more socially marginalized people. While this neglect is true across all populations, it has a disproportionate impact on our primary communities of interest.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service data used in sections three and four of this report are also subject to certain shortcomings. Although its recent efforts have made positive strides, the INS traditionally has had weak data collection methods (Levine, Hill, and Warren 1985: chapter 4; Morris 1985: 111-114; Immigration and Naturalization Service 1988: xxxviii-xxix). Thus, the historical data presented here may not present a complete picture of Colombian and Dominican immigration and naturalization. The naturalization data, both contemporary and historic, present a second weakness. The INS does not maintain records of immigrants who subsequently emigrate or who die prior to naturalization (DeSipio 1996: chapter 5; Liang 1994). As a result, it is not possible to say with certainty what percentage of the eligible immigrants at a specific point in time have naturalized or what percentage of immigrants from a certain year have naturalized by another year.

With these shortcomings in mind, the portrait presented here of Latinos of Colombian and Dominican descent in the New York City area offers a baseline for further studies of these populations. When examining the tables that follow, it is important to note two characteristics of these populations: many more Colombians and Dominicans are immigrants (see Table 1.1) and overall they are younger than other New Yorkers (see Table 1.4). As we will indicate in our discussion, these two traits interact with a wide array of other sociodemographic characteristics to influence the portrait that we present.

This report is based on a larger project that, ultimately, will be able to present methodologically valid comparisons between the demographic characteristics and political values, attitudes, and behaviors among these four emerging Latino populations. These preliminary analyses serve as background to a survey of individual-level attitudes, values, and behaviors that we will conduct over the coming year.

Part One
Sociodemographic Indicators of Individuals and Households

Nativity

Overwhelmingly, Colombians and Dominicans in the New York City area were born abroad (Table 1.1). This fact distinguishes these populations from the remainder of New York's Latinos as well as from whites and blacks.

Among the few U.S.-born Colombians and Dominicans, most were born in New York state (Table 1.2). Again, this distinguishes these emerging Latino communities from others in the New York City area. Whites, however, also have high rates of local origins.

Gender

In contrast to some stereotypes of immigrant populations that portray the majority of immigrants as males, Colombians and Dominicans follow the gender distribution patterns for the population as a whole (Table 1.3). Women are slightly more common than men in all populations.

Age

Latinos in general, and Colombians and Dominicans in particular, are young (Table 1.4). Of these, Dominicans are the youngest with a mean age of 28. As these mean ages would predict, few Colombians (3.8 percent) and Dominicans (4.0 percent) are 65 or older. In contrast, nearly twenty percent of New York non-Latino whites are 65 or older.

Age differences are particularly pronounced between non-Latino whites and these two groups, with more than a decade separating the average Dominican and the average non-Latino white.

Educational Indicators

Colombians and Dominicans between the ages of 3 and 25 have slightly lower rates of school enrollment than do whites and blacks (Table 1.5). Their enrollment rates are comparable to those of Other Latinos in New York. Among the five populations examined, Colombians have the second highest rate of college enrollment.

Dominicans in New York have lower levels of educational attainment than do other populations (Table 1.6). This can be seen by examining either those with 8 or fewer years of education or those with high school degrees or greater. Nearly one-third of Dominicans have completed 8 or fewer years of school. The comparable rate for Colombians in New York is one out of six. In marked contrast, only one out of twelve non-Latino whites have completed 8 or fewer years of education.

The share of these populations with high school degrees or post-high school education also varies. Slightly more than 40 percent of Dominicans have completed high school compared to 61 percent of Colombians and 80 percent of non-Latino whites.

These data on educational attainment undoubtedly reflect immigrant status and educational opportunities in the country of origin as well as the United States. Table 1.7 offers a narrower view of educational attainment that compares individuals who are more likely to have had access to education in the United States. Among those aged 18 to 24, Dominican educational attainment is much more in line with other New York City area populations. Slightly more than 10 percent of Dominicans have 8 or fewer years of education compared to 6 percent of Colombians and 9 percent of Other Latinos. More than half of Dominicans and nearly 70 percent of Colombians in this age group have high school degrees or have gone to college.

Household Composition

The modal household type among Colombian households is the apparent nuclear family—couples with children; the next most common household type is couples without children (Table 1.8). Dominicans show a different pattern. The most common type is female-headed households with children. This pattern is higher than for non-Latino blacks and Other Latinos. A close second among Dominican families is couples with children.

These patterns among the emerging Latino communities distance them from the ex-

periences of whites and blacks in New York City. For both non-Latino blacks and whites, single householders are the most common.

Both Dominicans and Colombians have slightly larger than average family sizes than the other populations (Table 1.9). Dominican households average 3.9 people compared to 3.5 for Other Latinos and 3.0 for whites. These larger household sizes among Dominicans are built in part on children. The number of children in Dominican households is 50 percent larger than in Colombian and Other Latino households (Table 1.10).

Housing

The majority of each of these populations reside in apartments in complexes of five or more units (Table 1.11). The modal size of these dwellings for all populations is between three and five rooms (Table 1.12). Colombian households average three rooms; for each of the other populations, the average is four.

Telephone Access

Latino households in general are less likely to have telephones than are white households (Table 1.13). Households without telephones are most common among Dominicans and Other Latinos. More than 22 percent of Dominicans and 16 percent of Other Latinos reside in houses without telephones.

Language

More than 90 percent of Colombian and Dominican households speak Spanish at home (Table 1.14). This is also true for nearly as high a share of the Other Latinos.

Among those who report that they speak Spanish at home, majorities report that they speak English either well or very well (Table 1.15). Just 10 percent of Colombians and 17 percent of Dominicans report that they do not speak English at all.

Residential Stability

Colombians and Dominicans are somewhat more likely than the other population groups to have moved within the five years before the census (Table 1.16). As would be anticipated, they have much higher numbers of people who had lived abroad, but even among those who had resided in the United States for five years, a higher share than either blacks or whites had changed residences.

Tables

Table 1.1. Birthplace.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
U.S.	19.0	27.9	74.3	81.8	75.9
Abroad	81.0	72.1	25.7	18.2	24.1

Table 1.2. Birthplace Among U.S. Born.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
New York	93.9	93.2	58.5	83.7	69.1
Other states	4.7	2.5	2.7	16.2	30.1
Puerto Rico	1.3	4.3	38.8	0.1	0.8

Table 1.3. Gender.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Male	47.3	46.3	48.0	47.3	44.8
Female	52.7	53.7	52.0	52.8	55.2

Table 1.4. Age.

	Colombian	Dominican	Other Latino	Non-Latino White	Non-Latino Black
Mean Age (yrs.)	32	28	30	41	32
% younger than 18	22.5	32.0	30.3	16.6	28.4
% 65 or older	3.8	4.0	6.1	19.7	8.7

Table 1.5. School Enrollment, Ages 3-25.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Pre-primary	4.8	6.2	6.5	8.6	7.5
Elementary and high school	44.4	48.6	48.3	41.1	49.1
College	12.6	10.2	9.1	17.7	10.7
Not in school	38.2	35.1	36.1	32.6	32.7

Table 1.6. Education Completed, Ages 18 and Older.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
0-8 years	17.0	32.7	21.6	8.2	9.0
9-12 years, no degree	22.3	25.4	26.7	11.7	24.6
High school	29.1	19.5	24.4	26.9	29.8
Some college	21.6	16.4	19.0	20.8	24.9
College graduate	6.9	4.1	5.3	18.3	7.9
Post-graduate education	3.0	1.9	2.9	14.1	4.0

Table 1.7. Education Completed, Ages 18-24.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
0-8 years	5.9	10.3	8.8	1.7	3.1
9-12 years, no degree	24.4	36.9	33.9	10.7	31.0
High school	30.3	24.7	28.5	26.0	31.6
Some college	33.4	24.3	24.7	39.0	28.9
College graduate	5.1	3.5	3.8	20.9	5.0
Post-graduate education	0.9	0.4	0.3	1.6	0.4

Table 1.8. Household Type.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Single householder	12.6	8.9	21.2	38.1	28.5
Couple, no children	14.8	12.2	17.1	29.1	14.8
Male householder, no children	6.2	3.5	3.3	2.2	2.9
Female householder, no children	11.9	12.8	10.9	5.5	15.1
Couple, with children	30.2	25.8	21.5	16.7	15.2
Male householder, with children	3.5	3.7	2.8	0.5	1.9
Female householder, with children	11.7	29.2	18.8	2.4	17.7
Others	9.1	3.9	4.3	5.6	4.0

Table 1.9. Mean Family Size.

	Colombian	Dominican	Other Latino	Non-Latino White	Non-Latino Black
Number	3.6	3.9	3.5	3.0	3.5

Table 1.10. Mean Number of Children per Household.

	Colombian	Dominican	Other Latino	Non-Latino White	Non-Latino Black
Number	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.6

Table 1.11. Description of Building in Which Home is Located.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Mobile home	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Detached house	8.0	2.0	5.0	18.0	9.0
Attached house	5.0	1.8	3.5	6.8	5.3
Apartment (2-4 units)	25.1	13.7	18.7	22.0	19.8
Apartment (5 or more units)	60.0	80.8	70.6	51.8	63.8
Other	1.9	1.7	2.2	1.4	2.1

Table 1.12. Number of Rooms in Household.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
1-2	30.5	14.7	15.3	13.4	13.6
3-5	57.7	77.4	73.0	56.6	67.4
6-8	9.7	7.1	9.8	23.7	14.8
9 or more	2.1	0.8	1.9	6.4	4.2
Median	3	4	4	4	4

Table 1.13. Presence of a Telephone in the Household.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Yes	89.9	77.9	83.8	98.0	89.0
No	10.1	22.1	16.3	2.0	11.0

Table 1.14. Language Spoken At Home.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
English only	5.3	4.3	12.9	76.9	88.9
Spanish	94.2	95.4	85.7	1.4	2.8
Other language	0.5	0.2	1.4	21.7	8.3

Table 1.15. Self-Evaluated English-Language Abilities Among Householders Who Speak Spanish at Home.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Very well	34.0	35.3	52.8	73.3	74.3
Well	31.4	22.4	23.6	16.5	16.8
Not well	25.1	25.3	17.4	8.8	8.5
Not at all	9.5	17.0	6.2	1.4	0.5

Table 1.16. Residence in 1985.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Same house	46.1	51.6	59.8	67.9	64.4
U.S., different house	37.4	31.3	32.1	29.1	31.1
Abroad	16.5	17.2	8.1	3.0	4.5

Part Two
Labor Force Participation and Economic Status

Labor Force Participation

Nearly two-thirds of Colombians reported that they were working when the census was conducted (Table 2.1). This rate is much higher than that for any other population, including whites.

Dominicans and Other Latinos were the most likely to be in the "temporarily unemployed" and "out of the labor force" categories. Fifty-three percent of Dominicans and 50 percent of other Latinos were out of the labor force at the time of the census. These high levels of non-working Dominicans are a particularly disturbing social indicator that should be of interest to policymakers in the fields of job training and economic development.

Latinos in general and Colombians and Dominicans in particular were more likely than non-Latinos to work for private, for-profit employers (Table 2.2). More than three-quarters of Colombians and Dominicans worked in the private sector. In contrast, one of every four non-Latino blacks worked for government. Colombians and Dominicans also showed lower rates of private, non-profit-sector employment than did any of the other populations under study.

Nearly 26 percent of whites and more than 20 percent of Colombians who were in the labor force in 1989 reported that they worked 41 or more hours per week (Table 2.3). More than 80 percent of the workers in each population group reported weekly work levels of 35 or more hours.

Occupation and Industry

The modal occupation for Colombians is in the service sector and for Dominicans is in technical, sales, and administrative positions (Table 2.4). These emerging Latino populations are less likely to be found in managerial positions than are Other Latinos, whites, or blacks.

The most common industries in which Colombians and Dominicans work in New York City are manufacturing; retail sales and trade; and business, entertainment, and professional services (Table 2.5). These patterns reflect the New York City labor market and are similar to the non-Colombian and non-Dominican populations with one slight difference. Colombians and especially Dominicans are more likely to work in manufacturing.

Income and Poverty Status

The median range of salary earnings among New York City Colombians in 1989 was between $15,000 and $19,999 (Table 2.6). For Dominicans, the median range was $10,000 to $14,999. Only whites exceeded the Colombians with a median income range of $25,000 to $29,999.

Individual incomes, however, explain only part of household incomes, particularly among immigrant households. More than 20 percent of Colombian households, for example, had three or more wage earners (Table 2.7). Nearly 16 percent of Dominican households had three or more wage earners.

Household income in 1989 reflects this variety in individual incomes as well as in the number of wage earners (Table 2.8). The gap between Colombian and Dominican households increases. The median earning category for Dominican households was between $17,500 and $19,999. For Colombians, the median range was $25,000 to $29,999. When household earnings are examined, Colombians continue to trail white households, but have tied non-Latino blacks and have moved ahead of Other Latinos.

Dominican households were much more likely to have earnings below the poverty line than any of the other populations (Table 2.9). Nearly one-third of Dominicans lived in poverty in 1989. Comparable rates for Other Latinos and Colombians were 22 and 11 percent, respectively.

At the other end of the income scale, one in five Colombians and one in nine Dominicans reported household incomes of fifty thousand dollars a year or more (Table 2.8). These rates are comparable to those for Other Latinos and non-Latino blacks, but trail non-Latino whites. Almost 40 percent of non-Latino white households had incomes of fifty thousand dollars or more.

Immigrants are more likely to be living in poverty than the U.S. born (Table 2.10). Among

the foreign born, the more recent immigrants are more likely to be living in poverty than the longer-term immigrants, though the pattern is slightly less linear. With these patterns in mind, however, it is worth noting that for comparable nativities or immigration histories, Dominicans are more likely to be found living in poverty than are Colombians, Other Latinos, whites, or blacks. The poverty characteristics of Other Latinos are the closest to those of Dominicans.

Receipt of Social Welfare Benefit Payments

Few Colombians, Dominicans, or Other Latinos receive Social Security benefits (Table 2.11). Nearly 22 percent of whites in New York City, on the other hand, receive these benefits.

Among Latino Social Security recipients, the modal benefit amount is between $2,501 and $5,000 annually (Table 2.12). For whites and blacks, the modal amount of benefits is somewhat higher, ranging from $5,001 to $10,000.

The overwhelming majority of each of these populations did not receive public assistance benefits, such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children or Medicaid (Table 2.13). The two populations most likely to receive these benefits were Dominicans and Other Latinos, with approximately 14 percent of those fifteen years of age or older receiving these payments.

The modal benefit levels varied among these populations (Table 2.14). The modal benefit level for Dominicans was between $5,001 and $10,000. For the Other Latinos, it was between $2,501 and $5,000. The most common benefit level for Colombians, whites, and blacks who received public assistance was less than $2,500.

Home Ownership and Tenancy

Less than 10 percent of Colombians, Dominicans, and Other Latinos in the New York City area owned their own homes (Table 2.15). These levels of home ownership were lower than those for white and blacks, but reflected the dominance of renting versus owning homes in New York City.

Among the relatively small number who owned their homes, the modal range of monthly mortgage payment was between $501 and $1,000 for all populations except blacks (Table 2.16).

More than half of Colombian homeowners paid $1,000 or more per year in real estate taxes (Table 2.17). This level of tax payment was higher than that of any population except for whites.

The much more common tenancy was rentals for all populations. Of these, Dominicans were much more likely to pay more than half their incomes in rent (Table 2.18). Nearly one-third paid rents of this proportion compared to 26 percent of Other Latinos, 24 percent of Colombians, 21 percent of blacks, and 18 percent of whites.

Tables

Table 2.1. Labor Force Participation Among People Sixteen Years of Age or Older.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Currently working	64.4	47.4	50.3	58.3	54.1
Temporarily unemployed	6.9	8.8	6.4	3.1	7.2
Out of labor force	28.7	43.8	43.3	38.6	38.7

Table 2.2. Employment Sector.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Private, for profit	78.5	77.8	70.9	63.3	60.2
Private, not for profit	5.6	5.4	7.2	10.0	9.0
Government	6.9	9.8	16.6	14.7	27.0
Self-employed	8.3	6.2	4.9	11.5	3.6
Family worker	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.3

Table 2.3. Weekly Hours Worked Among People Sixteen Years of Age and Older who Were in the Workforce in 1989.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Less than 20	4.6	6.2	5.0	6.4	5.5
20-34	11.5	9.2	10.5	13.5	11.0
35-40	63.9	67.7	68.1	54.5	70.6
41 or more	20.1	17.0	16.5	25.7	13.0

Table 2.4. Occupation.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Managerial/ professional	12.5	9.6	15.1	38.6	19.5
Technical, sales, administrative	25.7	27.1	32.3	35.6	36.6
Service	27.0	22.5	22.9	10.1	24.0
Farming, forestry, fishing	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4
Precision craft, repair	17.0	17.5	13.7	9.0	7.9
Operator, fabricator, laborer	17.5	23.0	15.5	6.3	11.5

Table 2.5. Industry.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Manufacturing	19.5	25.7	16.9	10.9	8.2
Transportation, communications, utilities	7.9	6.6	7.9	8.2	11.7
Retail sales or trade	21.9	27.6	21.4	18.0	14.1
Finance, insurance, and real estate	8.2	5.5	9.4	13.1	10.1
Business, entertainment, or professional services	25.5	22.3	29.9	37.8	40.4
Personal services	9.2	5.9	5.0	2.6	4.6
Construction	5.8	4.3	5.0	4.9	4.2
Public administration	1.4	1.9	4.0	4.1	6.4
Agriculture	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3

Table 2.6. Salary Income, 1989.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Less than $5,000	13.8	17.8	14.9	11.2	14.8
$5,000-$9,999	16.6	22.9	14.5	9.2	10.3
$10,000-$14,999	19.4	20.6	16.2	8.0	11.7
$15,000-$19,999	16.6	14.7	15.4	9.1	16.1
$20,000-$29,999	21.6	16.5	22.8	19.7	25.8
$30,000-$39,999	7.4	4.6	9.2	15.7	12.4
$40,000-$49,999	2.3	1.9	4.0	10.2	5.4
$50,000-$74,999	1.6	0.9	2.3	10.0	2.8
$75,000-$99,999	0.3	0.1	0.4	2.8	0.4
$100,000 or more	0.3	0.1	0.2	4.2	0.3
Median category	$15,000-$19,999	$10,000-$14,999	$15,000 $19,999	$25,000-$29,999	$15,000-$19,999

Table 2.7. Number of Workers in Household.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
None	5.7	23.8	23.1	14.9	16.2
One	34.8	33.2	33.3	30.2	34.1
Two	38.5	27.2	31.1	41.9	34.6
Three or more	21.0	15.7	12.5	12.9	15.1

Table 2.8. Household Income, 1989.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
$0-$4,999	3.1	10.9	11.2	3.4	10.0
$5,000-$9,999	7.7	18.2	16.4	9.2	12.4
$10,000-$12,499	6.0	6.1	5.1	3.6	4.5
$12,500-$14,999	5.5	4.8	3.7	2.9	3.5
$15,000-$17,499	4.7	6.3	5.0	3.2	4.5
$17,500-$19,999	4.3	4.8	4.4	3.0	4.7
$20,000-$22,499	7.0	5.3	5.3	3.6	5.7
$22,500-$24,999	3.9	4.5	3.6	3.0	3.9
$25,000-$29,999	10.2	8.5	8.0	6.4	8.0
$30,000-$34,999	9.7	6.5	7.1	6.5	7.0
$35,000-$39,999	6.9	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.3
$40,000-$49,999	11.0	7.7	9.0	10.7	9.3
$50,000-$74,999	14.8	7.6	10.5	18.2	13.3
$75,000-$99,999	3.7	2.4	3.2	8.8	4.4
$100,000 or more	1.5	0.8	1.8	11.4	2.5
Median category	$25,000-$29,999	$17,500-$19,999	$20,000-$22,499	$35,000-$39,999	$25,000-$29,999

Table 2.9. Poverty Status, 1989.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Not in poverty	88.7	68.5	78.5	96.8	86.3
In poverty	11.3	31.5	21.5	3.2	13.7

Table 2.10. Share of Population in Poverty by Nativity and Year of Immigration.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
U.S. born	7.8	24.8	22.8	2.5	15.1
Year of immigration (among immigrants)					
Pre-1980	9.7	30.9	19.9	4.1	8.0
1980-1984	12.4	36.3	25.9	8.0	14.8
1985-1990	16.4	28.1	23.8	18.3	14.1

Table 2.11. Receipt of Social Security Benefits Among People 15 Years of Age or Older.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Received Social Security	3.7	4.3	8.2	21.5	10.4
Did not receive Social Security	96.3	95.7	91.8	78.6	89.6

Table 2.12. Social Security Income Among Recipients.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Less than $2,500	21.1	24.0	21.0	9.0	16.0
$2,501-$5,000	52.3	41.6	37.6	23.8	30.8
$5,001-$10,000	21.6	31.4	37.3	54.7	46.4
More than $10,000	4.9	3.0	4.1	12.5	6.7

Table 2.13. Receipt of Public Assistance Among People 15 Years of Age and Older.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Received public assistance	4.1	14.2	14.5	3.4	10.3
Did not receive public assistance	95.9	85.8	85.5	96.6	89.7

Table 2.14. Public Assistance Income Among Recipients.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Less than $2,500	35.0	23.2	32.5	34.5	39.4
$2,501-$5,000	34.2	34.8	36.5	31.5	35.1
$5,001-$10,000	26.4	39.3	28.7	29.8	23.2
More than $10,000	4.4	2.6	2.2	4.2	2.2

Table 2.15. Tenancy.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Own	9.4	2.5	7.9	34.0	14.5
Rent	90.6	97.5	92.1	66.0	85.5

Table 2.16. Monthly Mortgage Payment.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
No payment	2.1	0.0	0.8	0.7	1.2
$500 or less	35.7	41.5	41.1	33.7	50.3
$501-$1,000	30.7	30.2	31.3	30.7	29.4
$1,001-$1,500	18.5	18.6	16.8	17.4	14.0
$1,501 or more	13.0	9.8	10.0	17.5	5.2
Median category	$501-$1,000	$501-$1,000	$501-$1,000	$501-$1,000	$251-$500

Table 2.17. Real Estate Taxes Paid, 1989.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
None	7.2	17.8	11.7	5.5	12.5
Less than $1,000	33.3	36.7	34.4	18.4	46.5
$1,000-$2,499	47.2	33.1	37.6	39.4	31.1
$2,500 or more	12.3	12.3	16.3	36.7	9.9

Table 2.18. Share of Income for Rent.

Percent	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Less than 10	4.7	6.2	6.9	10.2	7.1
10-19	24.3	23.1	24.4	29.9	27.9
20-29	27.0	19.0	22.6	22.1	24.2
30-39	12.1	12.3	12.7	12.5	13.0
40-49	7.9	7.4	7.0	7.0	6.8
50 or more	23.9	32.1	26.4	18.3	21.1

Part Three
Immigration and Naturalization Characteristics

Immigration Characteristics

The Immigration and Naturalization Service first began maintaining records of immigration from individual countries in the Caribbean and South America in the 1930s. Since then, immigration from Colombia and the Dominican Republic has increased each decade (Table 3.1). At current levels, approximately 15,000 Colombians and 45,000 Dominicans immigrate to the United States each year as permanent residents.

These permanent resident immigrants are supplemented by an uncountable number of undocumented immigrants. Although it is not possible to determine the annual level of undocumented immigration from these countries, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has developed an estimate of the number residing in the United States as of October, 1992 (U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service 1994: Table O). These estimates indicate that there were 59,000 Colombians and 40,000 Dominicans residing in the United States without legal status at that time. Colombia had the twelfth highest number of undocumented immigrants and the Dominican Republic the fifteenth highest number.

Nearly 60 percent of 1993 immigrants from the Dominican Republic intended to reside in New York state (Table 3.2). New Jersey was the next most frequent destination. Colombian immigrants reported a wider range of states for residence: New York was the most likely followed by Florida and New Jersey. Nearly 70 percent of Colombian immigrants intended to reside in one of these three states.

The patterns of intended residence by state also appear when the specific city of residence is examined. Overwhelmingly, Dominicans report an intention to reside in New York City and Northern New Jersey, with over half reporting that New York City will be their home (Table 3.3). Colombians, on the other hand, show a preference for New York City and Northern New Jersey, but have much more diverse destinations. The one small exception for Dominicans is San Juan, Puerto Rico. Almost ten percent of 1993 immigrants reported that they would reside there.

The majority of 1993 immigrants from both Colombia and the Dominican Republic were non-preference immigrants (Table 3.4). Non-preference immigrants are those individuals (usually immediate relatives of U.S. citizens) who are not subject to the per country numerical limitations in the immigration law. Non-preference immigrants usually face the shortest wait prior to immigration.

Most Colombians and Dominican obtained their immigrant visas on the basis of family ties to the United States (Table 3.5). Just 20 percent of Colombians and 2 percent of Dominicans obtained their visas based on specific job skills.

Most Colombian and Dominican beneficiaries of the Immigration Reform and Control Act were long-term residents of the United States and not agricultural workers with shorter periods of residence (Table 3.6). Most of these had entered the United States without documentation prior to January 1, 1982, five years before the Act was passed.

More than half of foreign-born Colombians and Dominicans in New York City arrived in the decade before the census was conducted (Table 3.7). This pattern distinguishes Colombians and Dominicans from foreign-born Other Latinos and non-Latino whites.

Naturalization and Citizenship Status

Nearly 19 percent of Colombians and slightly more than 27 percent of Dominicans in New York were born in the United States (Table 3.8).

Approximately 40 percent of Colombians and 47 percent of Dominicans are U.S. citizens (the native born plus the naturalized), a rate lower than that of Other Latinos, whites, and blacks in New York. Approximately one-quarter of the foreign-born in each population are naturalized.

The number of Colombian and Dominican naturalizations has been steadily increasing over the past two decades (Table 3.9). While im-

pressive, this increase has not kept pace with the increase in immigration from these two countries.

Among Colombians and Dominicans who naturalized in 1993, the average time between immigration and naturalization was thirteen years (Table 3.10). Two methods of calculating naturalization rates for these countries offer conflicting measures of which is more likely to naturalize.

The residential dispersion patterns evident among immigrants from the Dominican Republic and Colombia are the same among those who naturalize from these two countries (Table 3.11). Three quarters of Dominicans who naturalized resided in New York or New Jersey compared to just 45 percent of Colombians.

Colombian and Dominican naturalized citizens had a wide range of occupations, with administrative support the most often mentioned (Table 3.12). It should be noted that many naturalized citizens, including the majority of Dominicans, did not report their occupations to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Tables

Table 3.1. Immigration Levels by Decade, 1930s-1993, Nationally.

	Colombia	Dominican Republic
1930s	1,223	1,150
1940s	3,858	5,627
1950s	18,048	9,897
1960s	72,028	93,292
1970s	77,347	148,135
1980s	122,849	252,035
1991-1993	44,754	128,834

Note: Immigrant data for the 1980s and 1990s include beneficiaries of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 who immigrated to the United States in earlier years. See Table 3.6.
Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. 1994. *1993 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*: Table 2.

Table 3.2. State of Intended Residence, FY 1993 Immigrants, Nationally (States Receiving One Percent or More of the 1993 Immigrants).

	Colombia		Dominican Republic	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
California	805	6.3	-	-
Connecticut	344	2.7	-	-
Florida	3,075	24.0	2,250	5.0
Georgia	129	1.0	-	-
Illinois	302	2.4	-	-
Maryland	167	1.3	-	-
Massachusetts	263	2.1	2,233	4.9
New Jersey	2,170	16.9	5,176	11.4
New York	3,674	28.7	26,799	59.0
Pennsylvania	171	1.3	-	-
Rhode Island	179	1.4	581	1.3
Texas	458	3.6	-	-
Virginia	179	1.4	-	-
Other states	903	7.0	8,381	18.5
Total immigration (all states)	12,819		45,420	

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. 1994. *1993 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*: Table 17.

Table 3.3. City of Intended Residence, FY 1993 Immigrants, Nationally (Cities Receiving One Percent or More of the 1993 Immigrants).

	Colombia		Dominican Republic	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
New York, NY	3,304	23.7	25,689	56.6
Miami, FL	1,938	15.1	1,626	3.6
Boston, MA	210	1.6	2,138	4.7
Newark, NJ	715	5.6	675	1.5
Bergen-Passaic, NJ	736	5.7	1,970	4.3
Nassau-Suffolk, NY	473	3.7	939	2.1
Jersey City, NJ	441	3.4	1,456	3.2
Middlesex-Somerset, NJ	-	-	762	1.7
San Juan, PR	-	-	4,453	9.8
Providence, RI	178	1.4	579	1.3
Los Angeles, CA	420	3.3	-	-
Chicago, IL	286	2.2	-	-
Washington, DC	308	2.4	-	-
Houston, TX	287	2.2	-	-
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	494	3.9	-	-
Bridgeport, CT	198	1.5	-	-
Orlando, FL	191	1.5	-	-
West Palm Beach, FL	160	1.2	-	-
Other		21.6		11.2
Total immigration (all cities)	12,819		45,420	

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. 1994. *1993 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*: Table 19.

Table 3.4. Immigration by Category, FY 1993, Nationally.

	Colombia		Dominican Republic	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Preference	4,485	34.6	17,344	37.5
Non-preference	8,486	65.4	28,927	62.5
Total	12,971		46,271	

Table 3.5. Source of Immigrant Visa, FY 1993, Nationally.

	Colombia		Dominican Republic	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Family ties	9,154	70.6	43,647	94.3
Employment	2,574	19.8	865	1.9
Other	1,243	9.6	1,759	3.8
Total	12,971		46,271	

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. 1994. *1993 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*: Tables 6, 7, 8, and 9.

Table 3.6. Reasons for Eligibility Among Immigration Reform and Control Act Beneficiaries.

	Colombia		Dominican Republic	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Entered without documentation prior to 1/1/82	19,593	56.4	15,796	56.1
Overstayed visa prior to 1/1/82	6,742	19.4	2,473	8.8
Agricultural labor	8,377	24.1	9,875	35.1
Other	15	0.0	2	0.0
Total IRCA	34,727		28,146	

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. 1992. *1991 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*: Table 22.

Table 3.7. Year of Entry Among Foreign Born in New York.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Before 1960	2.6	2.7	25.4	40.1	5.2
1960-1969	17.2	17.0	20.5	16.0	15.9
1970-1974	14.2	12.3	10.2	8.4	16.1
1975-1979	11.8	14.2	8.3	8.6	14.3
1980-1984	25.6	24.2	16.2	9.5	24.2
1985-1990	28.6	29.6	19.4	17.4	24.2

Table 3.8. Citizenship and Naturalization Status Among the Foreign Born in New York.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Born in U.S	18.8	27.3	74.3	81.7	75.8
Naturalized U.S. citizen	20.6	19.8	8.5	12.0	9.3
Immigrant, non-U.S. citizen	60.6	52.9	17.2	6.3	14.9

Table 3.9. Persons Naturalized, 1974-1993, Nationally.

	Colombia	Dominican Republic
1974-1978	10,046	9,320
1979-1983	15,179	22,659
1984-1988	21,860	26,840
1989-1993	32,205	39,575

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. 1994. *1993 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*: Table 48 and U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. 1984. *1983 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*: Table NAT 1.3.

Table 3.10. Naturalization Rates, Three Measures.

	Colombia	Dominican Republic
Among those counted in the 1990 census, New York	25.4%	27.2%
1977 immigrants naturalized by 1992	36.1%	21.7%
Average length of residence for FY 1993 naturalizees	13 years	13 years

Source: 1990 Census PUMA data and U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. 1994. *1993 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*: Tables 54 and 58.

Table 3.11. State of Residence of Naturalizees, FY 1993 Immigrants, Nationally
(States Accounting for One Percent or More of the 1993 Naturalizees).

	Colombia		Dominican Republic	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
California	427	4.3	-	-
Connecticut	252	2.5	-	-
Florida	2,361	23.7	770	6.3
Georgia	157	1.6	-	-
Illinois	352	3.5	-	-
Maryland	186	1.9	-	-
Massachusetts	108	1.1	281	2.3
New Jersey	1,450	14.5	1,354	11.0
New York	3,063	30.7	7,926	64.6
Pennsylvania	152	1.5	-	-
Puerto Rico	116	1.7	1,116	9.1
Texas	577	5.8	-	-
Virginia	112	1.1	-	-
Other states		6.1		6.7
Total naturalizees (all states)	9,976		12,274	

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. 1994. *1993 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*: Table 51.

Table 3.12. Occupation of Naturalizees, FY 1993.

	Colombia		Dominican Republic	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Reported	5,095	51.1	4,805	39.1
Professional	584	5.9	317	2.6
Executive	546	5.5	334	2.7
Sales	477	4.8	453	3.7
Administrative support	1,185	11.9	1,753	14.3
Precision production	460	4.6	351	2.9
Operators, fabricators	965	9.7	826	6.7
Service	865	8.7	756	6.2
Farming	13	0.1	15	0.1
Not Reported	4,881	48.9	7,469	60.9

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. 1994. *1993 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*: Table 53.

Part Four

Northern New Jersey's Colombian and Dominican Populations

Although New York City has the highest concentration of both Colombians and Dominicans, Northern New Jersey also has large numbers. These populations are sufficiently sizable to provide insights into the integration of emerging Latino populations into American society. In this section, we highlight key areas where New Jersey's Colombian and Dominican populations differ from their co-nationals in New York City.

While our purpose is to highlight the distinct characteristics of Colombians and Dominicans in Northern New Jersey, we are struck by the similarities to their co-nationals in New York City, a pattern found much less frequently among white, blacks, and Other Latinos. On a series of key sociodemographic, economic and labor force, and immigration characteristics, Colombians and Dominicans in New York City and Northern New Jersey are largely indistinguishable. Among the most important of these similarities are sociodemographic characteristics such as: age, school enrollment, family size, number of children in household, and English-language abilities as well as economic factors including occupation, receipt of Social Security benefits, mortgage payments, and real estate taxes paid. We are surprised by these findings because for Other Latino and non-Latino populations, New Jersey residents are, on average, more likely to have higher incomes, higher status occupations, and the sociodemographic traits that are frequently associated with economic accomplishment.

What distinguishes Colombians and Dominicans in Northern New Jersey from the other New Jersey populations? First, they are largely first-generation immigrants who settled in New Jersey immediately after their immigration (see Tables 3.2 and 3.3). While there is undoubtedly residential migration between New York and New Jersey, it would be inaccurate to see New Jersey's Colombians and Dominicans in terms of suburbanization—in other words of economically successful residents of New York moving to New Jersey to improve their quality of life. Instead, many New Jersey Colombians and Dominicans are in the process of establishing a foothold in American society just as Colombians and Dominicans in New York City are. New Jersey is therefore serving as a "port of entry" community for both immigrant groups. This in large part explains the many commonalities between New York's and New Jersey's Colombian and Dominican populations.

The region-wide similarities for Colombians and Dominicans are not true of the Other Latino population. Several explanations account for the differences between Other Latinos in New York City and Northern New Jersey. Other Latinos in Northern New Jersey have experienced suburbanization much more than have the area's Colombians and Dominicans. Northern New Jersey Other Latinos are more diverse than Other Latinos in New York. While Puerto Ricans are the largest Other Latino population, they are not as large a majority in New Jersey as they are in New York. New Jersey has traditionally been the home to a large Cuban American population with its roots in the 1960s migration immediately after Fidel Castro took power in Cuba (Rogg 1974). Over the past decade, new immigrants from throughout Latin American and the Caribbean have joined the suburbanized New York City Other Latinos and Cuban Americans in Northern New Jersey. Thus, for several reasons, the Other Latino population in Northern New Jersey is unique along a series of sociodemographic and economic indicators.

Throughout this section, we examine the counties of New Jersey that are home to most Colombians and Dominicans in the state. These four counties—Passaic, Hudson, Essex, and Union—are all in the northeastern corner of the state. The number of residents of these four counties is approximately 3.5 million. Of these, 42,239 are Dominican, 43,139 are Colombian, 416,263 are Other Latino, 568,909 are non-Latino blacks, and 2,227,509 are non-Latino whites. We limit our analysis to these areas in order to compare New Jersey's Colombians and Dominicans to Other Latinos, whites, and blacks who reside around them. At a simple level, this approach assures that we are not comparing the emerging Latino populations to rural residents in the southern part of the state or to black or Puerto Rican resi-

dents of Camden in suburban Philadelphia.

Nativity

New Jersey Colombians and Dominicans have slightly lower percentages of people who were born in the United States (Table 4.1). Three-quarters of Dominicans and four-fifths of Colombians in New Jersey were born abroad.

Among the U.S.-born, the majority of all populations except Other Latinos were born in New Jersey (Table 4.2). Among Colombians and Dominicans, the states of New York and New Jersey were the birthplaces of almost everyone born in the United States.

Gender

Each of the New Jersey populations is closer to a one-to-one male to female ratio than are the similar populations in New York City (Table 4.3).

Educational Indicators

Overall, New Jersey Colombians have slightly lower educational attainment than their co-nationals in New York (Table 4.4). New Jersey Dominicans, on the other hand, are slightly more likely to have progressed further in their education. Nearly one-third of New Jersey Dominicans, however, have eight or fewer years of education.

Educational attainment among New Jersey Colombians and Dominicans between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four are much more similar to other New Jersey populations than for Dominicans and Colombians of all ages (Table 4.5). Nearly two-thirds of Colombians and three-fifths of Dominicans in this age group have graduated from high school or gone on to college.

Household Composition

For all of the populations under study, the share of couples with children is higher in New Jersey than in New York City (Table 4.6). Among both Colombians and Dominicans, this is the most common household type. Although the share of female-headed households with children is lower in New Jersey, female-headed households do account for 17 percent of Dominican and 13 percent of Colombian households.

Housing

Apartment dwellers dominate New Jersey's Colombian and Dominican populations as they do in New York City (Table 4.7). Along with the other populations under study, Colombians and Dominicans are somewhat more likely to live in houses or small apartment complexes than are New Yorkers. In New Jersey, the Colombian and Dominican disparity with the white population is much greater, with the majority of whites living in detached homes.

Telephone Access

Across all populations, New Jersey residents are more likely to have telephones than are New Yorkers (Table 4.8). This holds true for Colombians and Dominicans. Latinos, however, are more likely than non-Latinos to lack a telephone.

Automobile Ownership

Car ownership is higher in New Jersey (Table 4.9). The majority of all households, regardless of population, have a car or truck.

Language

Overwhelming majorities of New Jersey Colombian and Dominican household members speak Spanish at home (Table 4.10). Their likelihood of Spanish use exceeds the likelihood of English use in white and black households. This variable—language use at home—presents the widest disparity between Colombians and Dominicans on the one hand and whites and blacks on the other hand.

Labor Force Participation

Labor force participation rates are higher for all populations in New Jersey than in New York City (Table 4.11). Colombians and Dominicans have higher rates of labor force participation than do either whites or blacks in New Jersey.

More than 85 percent of Colombians and Dominicans in New Jersey who said that they worked in 1989 reported that they worked 35 or more hours per week (Table 4.12). These rates exceed those for white workers by about five percent.

Occupation and Industry

All populations, but particularly Colombians and Dominicans, are more likely to work in manufacturing in New Jersey than in New York City (Table 4.13). This sector accounts for more than one-third of all Colombian and Dominican jobs. The next largest sector for both populations is retail sales and trade.

Income and Poverty Status

On average, salaries are slightly lower in New Jersey than in New York City (Table 4.14). The median salary range for Colombians and Dominicans is between $10,000 and $14,999 annually (in 1989). Just ten percent of Colombians and nine percent of Dominicans earned $30,000 or more in that year.

Nearly one-quarter of New Jersey Colombian and Dominican households have three or more workers (Table 4.15). These rates are significantly higher than for any of the other New Jersey populations under study and are higher than New York City Colombian and Dominican households.

Despite the lower salaries in New Jersey, average household income is higher for all populations, except for blacks (Table 4.16). The median range of household income for Colombians is between $30,000 and $34,999; for Dominicans, $25,000 and $29,999.

As these income data would predict, households in poverty constitute a smaller share in New Jersey than in New York (Table 4.17). Dominicans have a higher likelihood of residing in impoverished households than do the other populations under study. For example, they are twice as likely as Colombian households to have these low incomes.

The likelihood of a household being in poverty increases if the householders are recent immigrants (Table 4.18). The impact of nativity in the United States is, however, more clouded. For Dominicans and blacks, households headed by people born in the United States have higher poverty rates than any of the immigrant cohorts. For Other Latinos, the native born have poverty rates higher than all but the most recent immigrants. Colombians and whites follow the more anticipated pattern of poverty rates being the lowest among the U.S. born.

Receipt of Social Welfare Benefit Payments

Among all populations, a smaller share receive public assistance in New Jersey than New York (Table 4.19). These recipiency rates reflect both lower rates of poverty and less liberal benefits in the Garden State. Blacks, Dominicans, and Other Latinos are the most likely to receive public assistance and Colombians and whites the least likely.

Home Ownership and Tenancy

Vast majorities of Colombians and Dominicans rent their homes (Table 4.20). Just eight percent of Dominicans and 13 percent of Colombians own their residences.

Among the vast majority who rent, the share of household income needed to pay for housing varies considerably (Table 4.21). The majority of Colombian renters pay between 10 and 29 percent, but nearly 16 percent pay half or more of their incomes for housing. More than one-quarter of Dominican renters dedicate at least half of their incomes to rent.

Immigration Characteristics

New Jersey sees a higher percentage of *recent* immigrants Colombian and Dominican immigrants than does New York City (Table 4.22). Over half of each population arrived in the United States in the ten years before the data were collected with approximately one-third having arrived in the five years immediately preceding the census.

Naturalization and Citizenship Status

Majorities of New Jersey's Colombians and Dominicans are not U.S. citizens (Table 4.23). Colombians have the highest rates of non-U.S. citizenship.

Foreign-born Dominicans in New Jersey have a higher naturalization rate than do Colombians (Table 4.24). Approximately one-third of Dominicans have naturalized compared with one-quarter of Colombians. Although the differences are slight, these populations appear to be more likely to naturalize than their co-nationals in New York City.

Tables

Table 4.1. Birthplace.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
U.S.	18.5	24.2	57.6	88.4	90.3
Abroad	81.5	75.8	42.4	11.6	9.7

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 1.1.

Table 4.2. Birthplace Among U.S. Born.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
New York	16.6	25.4	12.9	18.8	5.8
New Jersey	72.4	69.1	45.9	68.6	61.2
Other states	6.3	2.0	3.6	12.6	32.8
Puerto Rico	4.7	3.5	37.6	0.0	0.2

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 1.2.

Table 4.3. Gender.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Male	48.9	47.6	49.4	48.1	46.3
Female	51.1	52.4	50.7	51.9	53.7

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 1.3.

Table 4.4. Education Completed, Ages 18 and Older.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
0-8 years	17.7	30.0	22.3	8.1	8.7
9-12 years, no degree	23.5	22.1	22.5	11.9	24.6
High school	32.4	24.5	26.8	30.2	32.3
Some college	18.6	17.6	18.5	21.2	22.8
College graduate	5.3	4.4	6.6	18.6	7.9
Post-graduate education	2.5	1.3	3.4	10.0	3.6

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 1.6.

Table 4.5. Education Completed, Ages 18-24.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
0-8 years	5.6	8.7	8.9	1.2	2.7
9-12 years, no degree	27.8	32.5	29.7	11.6	29.1
High school	37.2	28.9	31.7	31.8	35.9
Some college	24.1	26.9	24.6	38.8	27.9
College graduate	4.8	3.0	4.5	15.9	4.2
Post-graduate education	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.8	0.3

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 1.7.

Table 4.6. Household Type.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Single householder	8.5	5.7	14.3	26.4	25.9
Couple, no children	17.7	12.8	23.5	35.1	17.7
Male householder, no children	6.8	3.5	3.6	2.3	3.1
Female householder, no children	7.3	10.4	6.5	6.1	14.2
Couple, with children	34.8	42.1	30.7	22.6	15.5
Male householder, with children	5.5	5.6	3.3	0.5	2.1
Female householder, with children	12.5	17.1	13.8	2.8	17.7
Others	6.8	2.9	4.3	4.1	3.8

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 1.8.

Table 4.7. Description of Building in Which Home is Located.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Mobile home	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Detached house	13.3	7.9	14.9	54.3	19.2
Attached house	4.6	5.3	4.2	3.1	3.9
Apartment (2-4 units)	38.1	43.4	41.9	22.0	36.0
Apartment (5+ units)	42.3	41.1	36.5	19.1	39.0
Other	1.7	2.3	2.4	1.2	1.9

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 1.11.

Table 4.8. Presence of a Telephone in the Household.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Yes	91.6	85.2	86.5	98.8	89.8
No	8.4	14.8	13.5	1.2	10.2

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 1.13.

Table 4.9. Number of Autos and Trucks in the Household.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
None	20.5	29.9	31.2	11.9	34.1
One	39.5	45.6	38.7	34.7	39.2
Two	28.3	19.7	22.7	36.7	19.3
Three or more	11.7	4.8	7.4	16.7	7.5

Table 4.10. Language Spoken At Home.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
English only	4.6	3.6	9.9	84.4	92.7
Spanish	95.3	96.3	86.4	1.2	2.2
Other language	0.0	0.0	3.7	14.5	5.1

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 1.14.

Table 4.11. Labor Force Participation Among People Sixteen Years of Age or Older.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Currently working	69.5	63.1	62.3	62.9	58.2
Temporarily unemployed	7.7	11.4	7.3	2.9	8.5
Out of labor force	22.8	25.5	30.4	34.2	33.3

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 2.1.

Table 4.12. Weekly Hours Worked Among People Sixteen Years of Age and Older in the Workforce in 1989.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Less than 20	4.6	5.8	4.5	7.7	5.4
20-34	8.9	8.5	9.4	13.2	11.0
35-40	65.4	71.4	68.1	53.0	70.1
41 or more	21.1	14.4	17.9	26.2	13.4

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 2.3.

Table 4.13. Industry.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Manufacturing	37.3	38.0	30.6	17.2	16.4
Transportation, communications, utilities	6.1	7.1	8.2	8.4	12.3
Retail sales or trade	22.4	23.4	22.3	21.6	17.7
Finance, insurance, and real estate	3.4	4.6	6.4	10.3	8.0
Business, entertainment, or professional services	18.0	17.0	20.5	29.9	33.7
Personal services	5.3	3.7	3.9	2.2	3.3
Construction	4.8	4.3	5.0	6.0	3.7
Public administration	1.4	1.1	.1	3.5	4.6
Agriculture	1.3	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.4

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 2.5.

Table 4.14. Salary Income, 1989.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Less than $5,000	12.4	15.8	13.4	12.4	14.6
$5,000-$9,999	16.2	19.7	14.7	9.2	10.8
$10,000-$14,999	22.4	23.8	18.1	8.2	13.3
$15,000-$19,999	21.2	15.6	16.3	9.5	17.0
$20,000-$29,999	17.7	16.5	20.0	20.6	23.1
$30,000-$39,999	5.6	5.5	9.7	15.0	12.4
$40,000-$49,999	2.0	1.9	3.8	9.5	4.9
$50,000-$74,999	1.9	0.9	3.0	9.4	3.1
$75,000-$99,999	0.2	0.1	0.5	2.5	0.4
$100,000 or more	0.4	0.2	0.5	3.7	0.5
Median category	$10,000-$14,999	$10,000-$14,999	$15,000 $19,999	$20,000-$24,999	$15,000-$19,999

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 2.6.

Table 4.15. Number of Workers in Household.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
None	4.8	9.5	13.0	10.9	12.8
One	27.3	29.6	27.6	26.9	31.0
Two	43.4	38.0	40.1	44.1	37.3
Three or more	24.4	22.9	19.4	18.1	18.9

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 2.7.

Table 4.16. Household Income, 1989.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
$0-$4,999	2.9	5.6	6.0	2.2	7.5
$5,000-$9,999	5.4	9.1	10.0	6.2	11.6
$10,000-$12,499	2.6	5.9	4.6	3.0	3.6
$12,500-$14,999	3.8	4.5	3.9	2.5	3.5
$15,000-$17,499	4.9	4.9	4.7	2.8	5.0
$17,500-$19,999	2.7	5.9	3.8	2.5	4.4
$20,000-$22,499	5.0	4.6	4.9	3.1	4.6
$22,500-$24,999	4.0	4.7	4.1	2.6	3.6
$25,000-$29,999	11.6	9.1	8.7	5.9	7.9
$30,000-$34,999	10.4	9.9	8.1	6.0	7.2
$35,000-$39,999	10.1	7.9	6.8	5.9	6.9
$40,000-$49,999	13.2	11.8	11.7	11.3	10.9
$50,000-$74,999	14.4	11.8	14.4	22.1	14.3
$75,000-$99,999	6.4	2.9	4.9	11.2	5.8
$100,000 or more	2.6	1.5	3.5	12.8	3.2
Median category	$30,000-$34,999	$25,000-$29,999	$25,000-$29,999	$30,000-$34,999	$25,000-$29,999

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 2.8.

Table 4.17. Poverty Status, 1989.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Not in poverty	90.7	81.1	85.7	98.0	88.1
In poverty	9.3	18.9	14.3	2.0	11.9

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 2.9.

Table 4.18. Share of Population in Poverty by Nativity and Year of Immigration.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
U.S. born	8.7	28.9	16.2	1.8	12.3
Year of immigration (among immigrants)					
Pre-1980	9.4	15.0	12.7	2.6	6.5
1980-1984	8.3	26.6	15.1	5.5	10.7
1985-1990	10.8	20.1	19.2	8.6	9.3

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 2.10.

Table 4.19. Receipt of Public Assistance Among People 15 Years of Age and Older.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Received public assistance	2.6	6.2	7.0	1.8	8.6
Did not receive public assistance	97.4	93.8	93.0	98.2	91.4

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 2.13.

Table 4.20. Tenancy.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Own	12.5	8.1	17.4	63.7	22.8
Rent	87.5	91.9	82.6	36.3	77.2

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 2.15.

Table 4.21. Share of Income for Rent.

Percent	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Less than 10	2.8	4.6	4.6	5.7	5.8
10-19	28.3	23.4	26.3	29.4	26.7
20-29	29.2	21.5	24.1	27.5	25.7
30-39	18.0	13.6	13.4	13.8	15.3
40-49	5.8	9.5	8.3	6.9	6.5
50 or more	15.9	27.4	23.2	16.6	19.9

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 2.18.

Table 4.22. Year of Entry Among Foreign Born in New Jersey.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Before 1960	0.8	1.4	10.8	38.9	3.0
1960-1969	13.1	13.5	23.3	17.1	10.0
1970-1974	15.3	11.8	15.0	10.5	13.5
1975-1979	13.1	15.2	9.0	9.4	18.6
1980-1984	26.3	23.5	18.9	10.0	25.1
1985-1990	31.4	34.6	23.1	14.1	29.8

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 3.7.

Table 4.23. Citizenship and Naturalization Status Among the Foreign Born in New Jersey.

	Colombian %	Dominican %	Other Latino %	Non-Latino White %	Non-Latino Black %
Born in U.S	18.1	24.0	37.3	88.4	90.2
Naturalized U.S. citizen	21.8	24.3	37.1	7.5	3.8
Immigrant, non-U.S. citizen	60.1	51.7	25.6	4.1	6.0

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 3.8.

Table 4.24. Naturalization Rates, New Jersey.

	Colombia	Dominican Republic
Among those counted in the 1990 census, New Jersey	26.6%	32.0%

For comparable data on New York City, see Table 3.10

Part Five
Conclusions and Recommendations

The rapid migration of Colombians and Dominicans to New York City and Northern New Jersey over the past two decades has outpaced the ability of social science and policy researchers to describe, let alone understand, these populations. While their presence and cultural influence is obvious even to the most casual observer, there has been little research into the circumstances of their lives or into their adaptation to life in the United States. The findings presented here offer a first effort at examining these questions in a comprehensive and comparative manner. In addition, they lay the foundation for a more comprehensive individual-level portrait that will follow over the next year.

These data offer a fascinating portrait of the demographic characteristics of Colombians and Dominicans. They also highlight questions for further research and unique public policy needs. By way of conclusion, we would like to highlight some of these characteristics and the public policy implications that follow for these populations.

Populations Driven by Immigrants

The first set of observations relates to the immigrant roots of most Colombians and Dominicans. Few are native born. This leads to two questions. Are these populations adapting to life in the United States, particularly to political life? And, what characteristics of life in the Dominican Republic and Colombia influence the opportunities and resources that these immigrants bring to the United States?

The answer to the first question is a qualified yes. Dominican and Colombian immigrants do appear to be adapting to life in the United States. While most use Spanish at home, for example, surprisingly high percentages report that they are comfortable with English-language communication. Their economic progress away from immigrant roots also appears in these data. This appears, for example, in data on impoverished households. Although the relationship is not linear, Colombian immigrants in New York City and New Jersey and Dominican immigrants in New Jersey with longer periods of residence become progressively less likely to live in households in poverty.

The answer to this first question can only be a qualified yes, because naturalization rates among these populations are not very high. Other research into the broader patterns of Latino naturalization offers some possible explanations for this pattern, but at present, available data do not conclusively explain low naturalization rates among Colombians and Dominicans (DeSipio and Pachon 1992; Pachon and DeSipio 1994). This finding suggests the first policy research recommendation:

> (1) *The interest in, and access to, naturalization of Colombians and Dominicans should be a priority in research focusing on these communities.*

The second question driven by populations with so many immigrants relates to the characteristics that Colombians and Dominicans bring with them from their home countries. The most important of these is relatively low levels of education. This puts Colombian and Dominican immigrants at a disadvantage in the workforce and potentially reduces opportunities for their native-born children. This suggests the second policy research recommendation:

> (2) *The availability of adult education services is crucial to the settlement opportunities of Colombian and Dominican immigrants. The availability of these services and their utility should be a focus of research as well as a goal of policymakers serving these communities.*

Colombian and Dominican Demographics

Not only are these *immigrant* populations, they are very young populations. This leads to a set of public policy needs that distance them from many non-Latinos, chief among which is education. The data presented here indicate that younger Colombians and Dominicans are receiving much more formal education than their elders. With these aggregate data, it is not pos-

sible to assess the quality of this education or the degree to which it is preparing Colombians and Dominicans for the labor force. This indicates a third objective for policy research:

> *(3) Access to educational services and the utility of the available resources should be a primary focus of research activities.*

Although we are examining Colombians and Dominicans as part of this project, we do not mean to homogenize their experiences. As these data demonstrate, these two groups have had different experiences and have adapted to U.S. society in different ways. This becomes particularly evident when examining several demographic characteristics of Dominicans, particularly Dominicans in New York City. They are much more likely than any of the other populations under study to live in poverty. Yet, they report low usage of social welfare benefits. Further, Dominicans are much more likely to have household structures that are often associated with poverty, specifically female-headed households with children. These characteristics distinguish Dominicans from most other recent immigrant populations and create parallels to what has been characterized as the underclass experience of some urban blacks. These findings lead to the fourth policy research recommendation:

> *(4) The Dominican experience in the New York area has created a population with unique public policy needs. Research should account for these circumstances in order to assure that policymakers are aware that existing policies are not meeting the needs of many Dominicans.*

Labor Force Participation

Again, the two populations under study manifest different trends. In terms of labor force participation, Dominicans show higher than average rates of absence from the labor force. Among those Dominicans who are working, however, as many work full time as in the other four populations studied. Colombians distinguish themselves in another way. They have a high share of households with multiple wage earners. This pattern results in relatively high Colombian *household* incomes.

Despite these differences, there are important similarities between these populations. Colombian and Dominican workers are concentrated in private sector jobs, particularly in manufacturing and retail sales and trade. This finding is important for two reasons. First, the low numbers of Colombians and Dominicans in the public sector employment is surprising since government work has often served as a means for economic advance in immigrant populations, particularly in the Northeast. Second, concentration in manufacturing raises question of whether these populations will be disproportionately impacted by the ongoing restructuring of the U.S. economy. These observations lead to the final policy research recommendation:

> *(5) Colombian and Dominican labor force experiences should be evaluated in the context of the broader national and regional economies in which they are concentrated.*

In sum, this preliminary demographic portrait of Colombians and Dominicans in the New York area raises as many questions as it answers. However, it offers some rather conclusive evidence on one topic. That is, these data indicate that it is appropriate to view the New York area in regional terms for these populations. While there are some differences between New York and New Jersey demographics, it is evident that both areas receive new immigrants from Colombia and the Dominican Republic and both are home to Colombians and Dominicans of all economic, educational, and age strata. This finding indicates that it is appropriate to conduct research on a regional as opposed to city-specific basis. This is particularly true for Colombians who have large shares of their national population in both New York City and New Jersey.

[1] *We use the terms Latino and Hispanic interchangeably to refer to individuals in the United States who can trace their ancestry to the Spanish-speaking regions of Latin America and the Caribbean.*

[2] *Throughout this report, we use the terms "Colombians" and "Dominicans" to refer to residents of the United States who trace their ancestry to Colombia or the Dominican Republic. Although these populations could be more accurately identified as Colombian Americans and Dominican Americans, we use the shorter versions to avoid repetition in our descriptions of these populations.*

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